(b) whether it is also a fact that insurance companies provide mediclaim to those patients only who opt for Allopathic treatment;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government regarding rejecting the suggestion of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) for providing mediclaim to those persons also who undergo Ayurvedic, Unani or Homoeopathic treatment by insurance companies; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide mediclaim to such policy holders who undergo Ayurvedic, Unani or Homoeopathic treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Insurance Companies have health insurance plans that cover treatment under Ayurvedic, Unani and Homeopathic systems also.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Expanding the network of RRBs

544. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to expand the network of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to every nook and corner of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing number of Regional Rural Banks are not sufficient to cater to the needs of the rural people; and

(d) if so, the targeted date by which RRBs are likely to be set up in each district of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) As a part of financial inclusion, especially with a view to provide institutional credit to the poorer sections of the rural community, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been advised to coordinate with the sponsor banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for the coverage of uncovered districts by RRBs, their branch expansion in uncovered/unserved areas and establishment of RRBs wherever feasible in the States/Union Territories not covered by RRBs. As a result thereof, 39 more districts have been covered during the current year thus making a total of 573 districts covered by RRBs. Further, licenses have been granted by the Reserve Bank of India for the opening of 321 branches in the covered/uncovered districts in the current financial year. The establishment of new RRBs is an ongoing process and depends upon viability and other factors.

Missing Demand Drafts and Cheques

545. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of bank Demand Draft (DD) forms and cheques dispatched in 1979 by State Bank of India, SFO, Nasik Road (Maharashtra) to SBI branches in Bihar had gone missing;